

Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims will replace the previous version, and the listing of claims:

Listing of Claims

1. (Previously presented) A rotary damper comprising:

a housing;

a viscous fluid housed inside the housing;

a rotor having a resistive portion which moves through said viscous fluid inside said housing provided in an axial portion whose one part projects from said housing, said rotor having a smooth outer periphery extending continuously without interruption; and

a sealing member preventing said viscous fluid from leaking between said axial portion and said housing, and

wherein said resistive portion includes multiple air retention portions provided in a circumferential direction, and air movement passages connecting two of the air retention portions provided in the circumferential direction, and

said housing has an inner surface facing the resistive portion, a first distance between the air movement passage of the resistive portion and a part of the inner surface directly facing thereto, and a second distance between a portion of the resistive portion radially away from the air movement passage and a part of the inner surface directly facing thereto, said second distance being less than the first distance.

2. (Original, withdrawn) A rotary damper according to claim 1, wherein said air retention portion is formed by a through-bore, and said air movement passage is formed by a depressed groove.

3. (Previously presented) A rotary damper according to claim 1, wherein said multiple air retention portions are formed in a

concentric circle, and said air movement passage includes a circumferential groove corresponding to said air retention portion and being provided in said housing.

4. (Previously presented) A rotary damper according to claim 1, wherein said multiple air retention portions are formed between an outer circumferential surface of said resistive portion and an inner circumferential surface of said housing in the circumferential direction.

5. (Previously presented) A rotary damper according to claim 1, wherein said resistive portion has radially inner and outer portions relative to the air retention portions, said radially inner and outer portions being located in a same plane.

6. (Previously presented) A rotary damper according to claim 5, wherein said resistive portion has a disc shape with the air retention portions therein extending circumferentially in an arc shape.

7. (Previously presented) A rotary damper according to claim 6, wherein said housing has a circumferential groove facing the air movement passage and the air retention portions without facing the radially outer portion.

8. (Previously presented) A rotary damper comprising:

- a housing;

- a viscous fluid housed inside the housing;

- a rotor having a resistive portion which moves through said viscous fluid inside said housing provided in an axial portion whose one part projects from said housing, said rotor having a smooth outer periphery extending continuously without interruption; and

a sealing member preventing said viscous fluid from leaking between said axial portion and said housing,

wherein said resistive portion includes multiple air retention portions provided in said resistive portion in a circumferential direction, and air movement passages connecting two of the air retention portions, each of said air retention portions being formed by an elongated through-bore completely surrounded by a periphery.

9. (Previously presented) A rotary damper according to claim 8, wherein said resistive portion has radially inner and outer portions relative to the air retention portions, said radially inner and outer portions being located in a same plane.

10. (Previously presented) A rotary damper according to claim 9, wherein said resistive portion has a disc shape with the air retention portions therein extending circumferentially in an arc shape.

11. (Previously presented) A rotary damper comprising:

a housing;

a viscous fluid housed inside the housing;

a rotor having a resistive portion which moves through said viscous fluid inside said housing provided in an axial portion whose one part projects from said housing, said rotor having a smooth outer periphery extending continuously without interruption; and

a sealing member preventing said viscous fluid from leaking between said axial portion and said housing,

wherein said resistive portion includes multiple air retention portions provided in said resistive portion in a circumferential direction, and said housing includes a circumferential groove facing the air retention portions and operating as an air movement passage connecting two of the air retention portions.

12. (Previously presented) A rotary damper according to claim 11, wherein said resistive portion has radially inner and outer portions relative to the air retention portions, said radially inner and outer portions being located in a same plane.

13. (Previously presented) A rotary damper according to claim 12, wherein said resistive portion has a disc shape with the air retention portions therein extending circumferentially in an arc shape.

14. (Currently amended) A rotary damper according to claim 13, wherein said circumferential groove directly faces ~~an inner side of~~ the resistive portion in the disc shape without extending outwardly of the resistive portion.